

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3504

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR ET

SUBJECT: EPMG REQUIREMENTS FOR USG PERSONNEL

REF: ADDIS 9670

1. CONGEN WOULD LIKE TO ADD COMMENTS ON RECENT EXPERIENCE ON ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR USG MILITARY AND CONTRACT PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO KAGNEW. ARTICLE XIV PARA 2 OF US-ETHIOPIA TREATY ON DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS DATED 22 MAY 1953 STATES "PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS SHALL NOT BE APPLICABLE TO MILITARY MEMBERS OF THE U.S. FORCES..." NONETHELESS, DURING THE FIRST HALF OF CALENDAR 1975 ETHIOPIAN IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN DEMANDING ALL ENTERING USG PERSONNEL, BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CONTRACT EMPLOYEES, TO POSSESS U.S. PASSPORTS AND VALID ETHIOPIAN VISAS. IN SEVERAL INSTANCES VISAS WERE ISSUED AT AIRPORT IN ADDIS AND ASMARA IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS WERE HESITANT TO CANCEL VISAS AND ISSUE APPROPRIATE ID CARDS. AFTER PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS, VISAS WERE CANCELLED AND ID CARDS WERE ISSUED.

2. AS PART OF THIS EXERCISE, CONGEN AGAIN POINTED OUT EXEMPTION OF U.S. MILITARY ASSIGNED TO KAGNEW FROM PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS. AFTER REFERRING TO ADDIS IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS (WHO WERE BRIEFED ON SITUATION BY EMBASSY ADDIS), LOCAL OFFICIALS FINALLY, GRUDGINGLY, AGREED TO ABIDE BY THIS PROVISION OF 1953 TREATY, AGREEING THAT MILITARY FORCES REQUIRED TO HAVE ONLY ORDERS ASSIGNING THEM TO KAGNEW AND U.S. MILITARY

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ID CARD. DESPITE THIS CONCESSION, CONGEN HAS SUGGESTED TO CO

OF NAVCOMMUNIT THAT INCOMING MILITARY BE IN POSSESSION OF U.S.
PASSPORT, MILITARY ORDERS, WITH AMENDMENT SHOWING PROVISIONS OF
ARTICLE XIV PARA 2, AND MILITARY ID CARD. ENTERING MILITARY
SHOULD NOT PRESENT PASSPORT UNLESS IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES SO
DEMAND. IN ANY EVENT, PASSPORT SHOULD PROVE USEFUL WHEN U.S.
MILITARY TRAVEL TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES EITHER OFFICIALLY OR
UNOFFICIALLY.
SHERRY

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